

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

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- October Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- DX Contests
- From the President-Elect

From the President

The article I write here usually has a topic but this one seems more a collection of random thoughts.

We've been fortunate to have to real DX to chase this month - 3C1L, 9U4M, VK9MA, & VP2MDL to name a few. Conditions have been less than stellar but contacts are out there to be made.

Many club members took part in the Huntsville Club's annual Field Day effort. And what an effort it was this year with challenging weather conditions impacting set-up. The payoff was another 1st place finish in the 4A category and 8th overall. Let me clarify "another": K4BFT has finished 1st EVERY YEAR for the last five years, and 8 times in the last 11 years! Truly phenomenal performance.

Few of us will forget being caught up in the ARRL Centennial chase a few years ago. The following year we had the National Parks activation. Just announced for next year is the ARRL International Grid Chase which kicks off January 1, 2018 at 0000z. They mention 32,400 poten-

tial grid entities and of course some of those are open water and or sparsely populated. It will be tied into LOTW and they'll have a monthly leaderboard. Who's up for the challenge?

In December we'll install our newly elected officers at our annual Christmas party. Note the date & venue change: Monday, December 11, 2017 at Logan's Roadhouse, 4249 Ball-moral Dr, Huntsville, 35801. It's very easy to find near the intersection of South Parkway & Airport Rd.

I'm looking forward to handing over the QRO gavel to Steve AG4W. He doesn't realize yet how restrictive the 24hr Secret Service protection detail can be. Wonder if he's planning to repeal all my hard fought legislation?

73,

Mark N4BCD

North Alabama DX Club - President

November Program—Antennas for the Sunspot Doldrums

By Tom Russell, N4KG

"Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious by these simple antennas" was no doubt what Shakespeare had in mind to put on the lips of the soon-to-be Richard III, a ham even before incentive licensing.

While this solar cycle has laid waste to the high bands, 40m and below are still with us. Tom Russell, N4KG will remind us that simple but effective antennas are possible without breaking the bank, and back this up with some models and construction tips. Get ye to the Golden Corral around 6:00 pm this coming Tuesday for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Tom's program.

"All of us have cause to wail the dimming of our shining star", but it's not the end of the world: make sure your antennas are up to the task.



How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

October 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ—NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

NADXC Minutes 2017-10-10

Members attending 26 Guests 0

Review of Sign-in Sheet & DX worked

Kelley W4VPZ – Mauritania 5T5OK 40m
(Thanks to everyone for the antenna help!)

Mark N4BCD – KC4AAA 17m

Rob KB5EZ – RTTY: Iceland, Mauritania,
Ceuta & Melilla

Steve AG4W – 5T and JT on RTTY

Bruce AC4G – 5T (160m/80m)

RI1F (80m)-Franz Joseph Land
Received ZL1RS QSL for 6m

Tim AB4B – SU/DM4DX 15m

Stephen KK4TJP – SV5, 3B8, TZ, J3 all
on 40m

Tom N4KG – 5T5OK

Craig K4XR – 5T5OK, H4OGC

Announcements

Kevin KG4TEI and Terri KI4NCL recently welcomed a baby girl!

Bill KD8IGK is visiting from out of state and gave the club an update on the outcome of the HARC trial that occurred this morning.

Kelley W4VPZ Treasurer's Report (Sept)

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,422.57
Debits	
Banquet Prizes	-\$ 249.80
Ending Balance	\$ 4,172.77

Membership Applications?

Yes. Walter Miller AJ6T was voted in to membership unanimously. Welcome,

Walter! Walter divides his time between homes in California and Madison, AL. He hopes to join us at a Club meeting soon.

Old Business

The report from the nominating committee, which was published in the October LongPath newsletter was accepted by a unanimous vote. The slate of officers to be voted on at the November meeting are:

President: Steve Werner AG4W

Vice President: Rob Suggs KB5EX

Secretary/
Treasurer Kelley Johns, W4VPZ

Directors: Tom Duncan Kg4CUY
Kevin Hibbs KG4TEI

Thanks go to MD Smith WA4DXP and Tim Wininger AB4B for their work as the nominating committee this year!

New Business

In December we'll have our annual Christmas party where we will install a new president. The party has been moved this year to MONDAY, December 11, 2017, and will be at a new location: Logan's Roadhouse, 4249 Balmoral Drive, Huntsville, AL 35801.

Next month, we will elect the DXer of the Year to be awarded at the December meeting.

A funding request was received from YL2GM and YL3AIW for a DXpedition to 3C1L (Bioko) and 3COL (Annobon), in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. On the DXCC most wanted list, they are #30 and #44. Operations are planned for 10 October – 22 October 2017. No funding was allotted, but the Club will see how they do.

Bouvet DXpedition funding update: the Club has pledged \$125, and Kelley W4VPZ will send the funds to them at the end of October.

Tim AB4B mentioned a friend, Ted W4RJ (was WA4ENJ), who is not doing well with his health. He asked the members to listen for Ted on 80m.

Program:

Meteor scatter communication is easier than ever thanks to the WSJT digital modes. Rob KB5EZ described the basics of meteor physics, what meteors are and where they come from, how the ionization trail scatters RF energy, and how you can best exploit the brief bursts of propagation to add some VHF grid squares to your log.

October Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for October 2017

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,172.77
Credits	
Donation from Hamfest Committee	\$ 200.00
Ending Balance	\$ 4,372.77

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	John Stensby, N5DF
Secretary/ Treasurer	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

DX Contests for November

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

WAE DX Contest (DIG), 80-10 meters

Nov. 11, 0000Z to Nov. 12, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number
(see rules for QTC)

See page 93, Nov. QST and

www.waedc.de/referate

Japan Int'l DX Contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 11, 0700Z to Nov. 12, 1300Z
(48 hours)

Exchange: RS plus CQ zone; JAs
send prefecture

See page 93, Nov. QST and

www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html

OK/OM DX Contest, CW, 160-10 meters

Nov. 11, 1200Z to Nov. 12, 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number
or OK/OM district

See page 93, Nov. QST and

www.okomdx.crk.cz

LZ DX Contest, (CW/SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 18, 1200Z to Nov. 19, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone or LZ
district

See page 93, Nov. QST and

www.lzdx.bfra.org/rulesen.html

All Austria 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Nov. 18, 1600Z to Nov. 19, 0700Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial Nr. (OEs
send district)

See: page 93, Nov. QST and

www.oevsv.at/

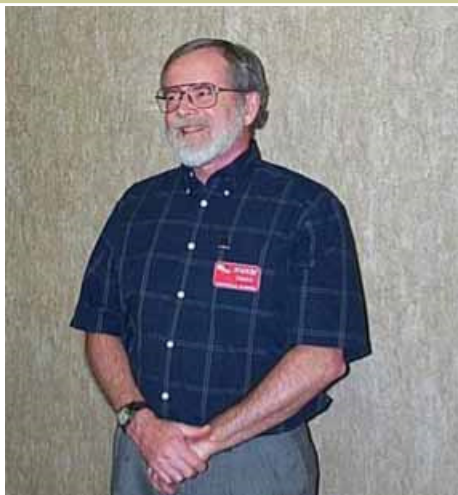
CQ Worldwide CW, (CW), 160-10 meters

Nov. 25, 0000Z to Nov. 26, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ zone

See page 93, Nov. QST and

www.cqww.com/rules.html



ARRL 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 1, 2200Z to Dec. 3, 1600Z

Exchange: RST plus Section

See: www.arrl.org/160-meter

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB/CW), 10 meters

Dec. 9, 0000Z to Dec. 10, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus State/ Prov.; DX
sends RST + S.N.

See: www.arrl.org/10-meter

Dates & times often change or are mis-
printed in the journals; beware. Have
fun!

Chuck, N4NM

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

From the President-Elect

By Steve Werner, AG4W

As the club President elect I thought I would try and let you know what I hope to do for the club in the coming year. These are exciting times for ham radio and DXing even during less than optimum propagation. Nearly every day I usually offer up some interesting observations about our hobby on Twitter. It is easy to join and will give you more information on subjects that you are interested in than you will be able to read. Much like Donald Trump it allows me to reach a good size audience and share my thoughts on various ham topics. Although you might not find my tweets to be as entertaining or shocking as President Trump I hope you find mine more interesting and informing. To follow me on Twitter search on @73dxsteve and click on follow. If you agree with what I have to say you can indicate so by clicking on the heart which indicates you like it. If you think it would be useful for others to know about, click on the box next to it to re-tweet it to your followers.

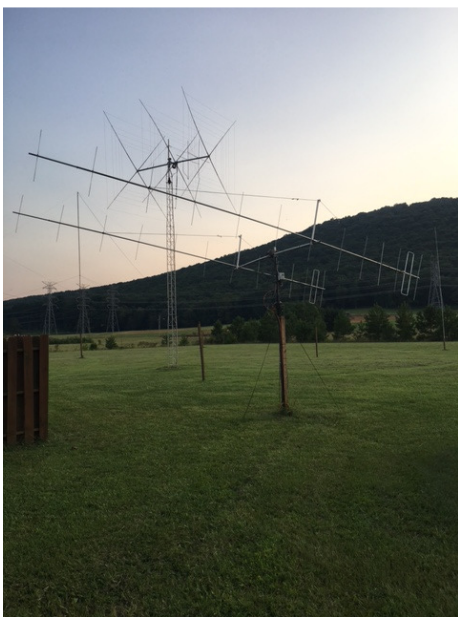
I use Twitter to promote Q-Track since I am the CEO. I usually promote Q-Track 2-3 times a day, send something interesting about ham radio, and then one other thing that can be about my many other interests including science, investing, or politics. The ham radio topics cover DX, but also include contesting and experimenting. Most of you know I am not just an avid DXer, but also a hardcore contester and experimenter.

One way I like to give back to the hobby now is to let others learn about other kinds of DX to be worked. I feel this gets more important as propagation gets worse during the sunspot cycle. In previous down sunspot cycles our club membership dropped. I am going to try to increase membership

From the President-Elect

(cont'd from p. 1)

and get more hams involved in many different types of DXing. I enjoyed our recent presentation by our VP elect Rob about Meteor Scatter. I expect no one else in the club had ever tried it. I say that because I thought I had tried everything in ham radio. Not that. I have changed that and now have 6 meteor scatter QSOs in the log. I operated during the weekend recently that we had the Orionid meteor shower. It was just like making my first CW contact 52 years ago. The excitement of waiting for a rock to come by to make propagation for just a second was intoxicating. The only thing comparable and more interesting is an EME contact. The nice thing about Meteor scatter is I had all the equipment I needed. You may too. I was not a big dog, but much like EME it is a very friendly group that loves new people.



Meteor scatter is also a great way to add to your VUCC count. If you don't have VUCC you should try to work 100 grid squares on 6 or 2 meters. It is just like working the WARC bands when you had no DXCC countries. Remember how much fun it was when everyone you talked to was a new one. The same

thing can be said for digital DXCC. If you have never worked RTTY DX it is another way to start with working the easy ones. The new digital mode FT8 also counts for digital DXCC which is going to be more popular during poor propagation.

I hope everyone had a good time in the CQWW contest. The first night was rough on the low bands with all the rain storms in the area.

There are 2 nice DXpeditions coming up, Bouvet which the club has already supported and Baker Howland. Baker Howland was last activated in 2002. It will be a new one for a lot of club members and will allow most of us to get some new band countries. I recommend the club should consider donating to that DXpedition.



It was a great weekend for DXing. I got new band countries from VK9MA, 3C1L, and 5A1AL on HF. I also worked VK5APN on 2 meter EME during the contest. I have been trying to work him for a year because I was his #49 state for EME. He wants to be the first to work WAS EME in Australia. I was glad my new Russian sequencer worked that I purchased for \$20 from UA3QLC

in Dayton. I installed it in an old router case.

I encourage the membership to listen in on the club repeater 147.30/147.90 MHz (PL tone 103.5). It is a great way to add to your country count. It will be easier to work DX because you will learn where the DX station is listening from the club members that work them on the repeater. In the big pileups it can make a difference.

It was also nice to see both the NADXC and HARC members help with the Jamboree on the Air for the Boy Scouts. Six stations were set up along with an indoor tracking demonstration from Q-Track. It was a great way to introduce youth to ham radio. Over 1 million Boy Scouts around the world participate.



73,
Steve AG4W